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FROM: Ambassador Bonn
TO: Secretary of State
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PARIS PASS USRO, Thurston and West.

Ref Paris PULTO A-431 December 30, 1958.

Idea of seeking SHAPE intervention in alert measures problem has gone back to last spring when British suggested this might be done in order spur Germans to adopt necessary legislation (Ritbel 3179 April 18, 1958 repeated Paris 504 London 369). Since then little progress made towards realizing such legislation, although Embassies continue to be told by PONTAT it is hoped draft law will be given preliminary review by cabinet "soon", after which copies can be given Embassies for study before it goes back to cabinet for final approval and is presented to parliament (Ritdesps 439 September 19, 511 October 2, 603 October 16, 810 November 28, and 1026 January 8).

Subject of draft law was aired in press several months ago as result speech by Interior Minister Schroeder which was attacked, particularly by SPD, for that aspect of it dealing with "internal security" (Ritdosp 762 November 13). During past week press has reported Laender Ministries as desiring abolition Allied reserved rights as regards emergency powers but as voicing objections to Federal draft law on grounds it prejudices "states' rights."

In view this situation it seems probable draft law will become bogged down indefinitely unless some impulse given Federal Government to get on with job. Since tripartite efforts have so far borne little fruit, we agree British view that conference called by SHAPE, on basis military planning needs, likely be more effective than one called by Three Powers as recommended by USRO. Therefore hope Department will support initiative along those lines.

TRIUMPH

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FOR: Wellingtonship

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